



**Essential Elements of the  
Norfolk Colonial Revival Style**

- Simple, straightforward volumes with side wings and porches added to make more complex shapes
- Orderly, symmetrical relationship between windows, doors and building mass
- Simplified versions of Classical details and columns, occasionally with Classical orders used at the entry
- Multi-pane windows



## NORFOLK COLONIAL REVIVAL

The Norfolk Colonial Revival is based on the Colonial Revival styles prevalent throughout the country in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-centuries. During this era, elements from Classical and Colonial houses were combined and modified to produce a new vocabulary that became popular in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This mixing of influences produced a wide variety of expression and form in the Colonial Revival house.

Norfolk's Colonial Revival houses tend to have tall, narrow windows, elaborate entrances and cornice treatments, and deep front porches that run the entire face of the front facade. The relaxed rules of composition, frequent use of paired windows, and the occasional gambrel roof form, give these houses a comfortable quality which places them in stark contrast to the regulated order of more Classical styles.

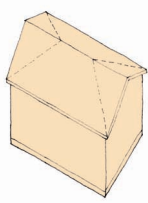


Partial elevation and wall section

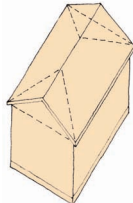


# Massing & Composition

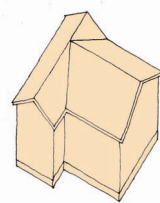
## MASSING DIAGRAMS



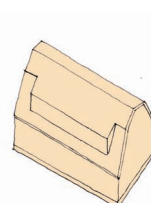
Broad Front



Narrow Front

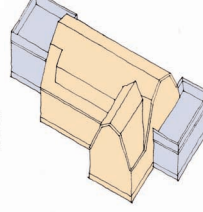
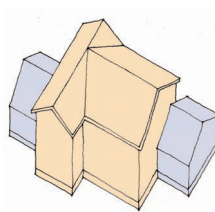
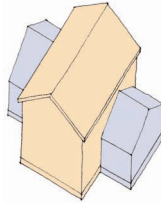
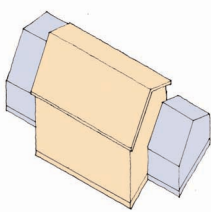


L-Shape

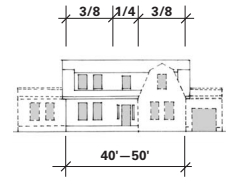
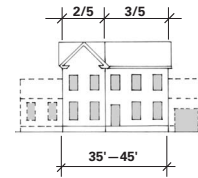
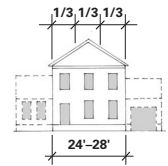
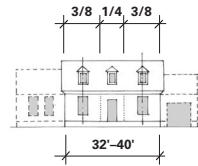


Gambrel

## MASSING COMBINATIONS



## FACADE COMPOSITION DIAGRAMS



## Massing

### BROAD FRONT

Hipped-roof or side-gable rectangular volume with roof pitches ranging from 7 in 12 to 12 in 12. One-story shed or hip roofed porches are often placed symmetrically on the front facade. One-story side wings often occur. Although porches are most often one-third or one-fifth the length of the main body, they may also be three-fifths or the entire length of the front facade.

### NARROW FRONT

Hipped-roof or front-gable box with roof pitches ranging from 7 to 12 in 12. Five- and three-bay compositions are common. Full front porches and one-story side-wings are common to this massing type.

### L-SHAPE

L-shape volume with a front-facing gable roof intersecting either a gable or cross-gable at the rear. Roof pitch ranges from 6 in 12 to 10 in 12. One- and two-story porches often fill the space of the L.

### GAMBREL

Rectangular volume with a gambrel roof containing a second or third story. Gambrel roofs have two roof pitches, 20 in 12 to 36 in 12 at the eave, and 6 in 12 to 10 in 12 above the pitch break. Shed dormers are common. Porches may be inset in street-facing gambrels.

### Combinations

Larger living spaces may be created by adding side wings to the main body. Gabled or shed dormers may be added to introduce light into half-story and attic spaces. The architectural character of elements such as side wings, rear wings and accessory/ancillary structures should be consistent with the architectural character of the main body.

### Facade Composition

Colonial Revival facade composition is characterized by a symmetrical and balanced placement of windows and doors. Standard windows occur as singles, or in pairs. Entrance doors are generally

located near the corner of narrow houses and at the center of wide houses.

### Roof

The roof pitch on Norfolk Colonial Revival houses varies from 6 in 12 to 12 in 12. For L-shape forms, the pitch on street-facing gables is 10 to 12 in 12.

### Eaves

The Colonial Revival house typically has one of three eave profiles:

- Boxed eave, typically with an 18-inch soffit depth; shallow soffit on the rake
- Deep boxed eave with heavy bracket, often found in hipped-roof examples, presenting a more robust image
- Boxed eave modified for gambrel roof, with tall frieze and shallow, heavy brackets

Eave profiles have an 8- to 12-inch frieze board at least 8 inches above the window head trim. Eave returns should have metal flashing back to the wall at a maximum slope of 2 in 12.

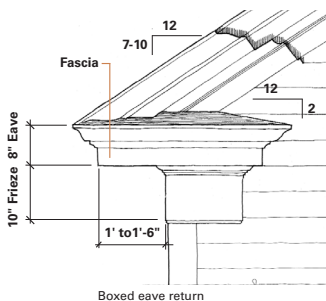
### Wall Section & Eave Details

The first floor of the main body is typically set three feet above the finished grade. The floor-to-ceiling height on the first floor is typically 10 feet. For two-story houses, the second story floor-to-ceiling height is 9 feet. Window head heights should be 8 feet for the first floor and 7 feet for the second floor.

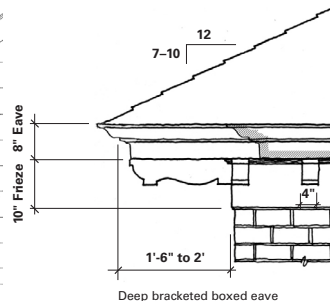
On clapboard houses, corner boards should be no less than nominal 5/4 by 6 inches. On stucco and brick houses, the watertable should project 2 inches from the wall. Clapboard houses should have an 8-inch skirt board. When foundation vents are used, they should be centered under windows.



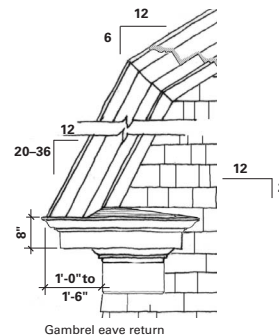
## TYPICAL EAVE DETAILS



Boxed eave return



Deep bracketed boxed eave

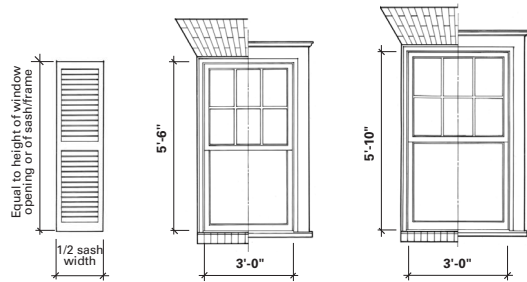


Gambrel eave return

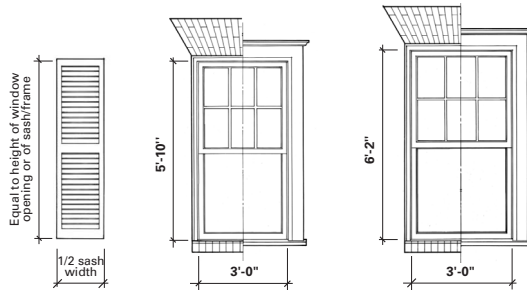


# Windows & Doors

## STANDARD WINDOWS

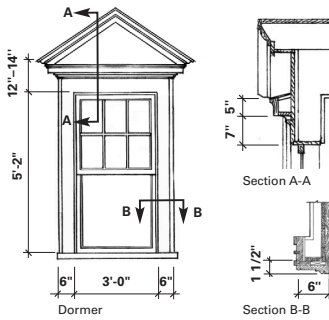


Second floor

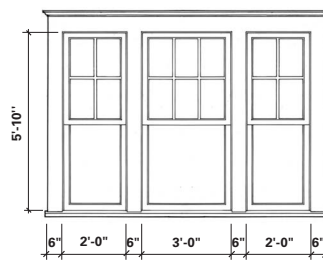


First floor

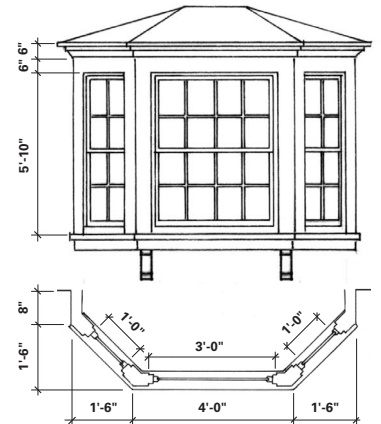
## SPECIAL WINDOWS



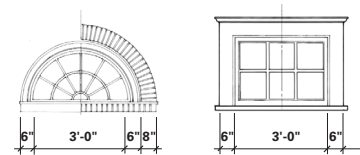
Dormer



Triple window



Angled bay window



Accent windows

## Standard Windows

Windows have vertical proportions. Window muntin patterns are typically 6 over 1 or 6 over 6 on both floors; window panes are more vertical in proportion than square. Standard windows are double hung. Jack arches are common over windows set in masonry walls. Standard windows are often paired.

## Special Windows

Special windows include angled bay windows, triple windows and dormers with a pediment. Bay windows should extend to the ground whenever possible, otherwise bay windows supported on heavy brackets are acceptable. Small square, rectangular or fan light windows are often used as an accent in gable ends or on the second floor above the entrance.

## Shutters

Shutters are encouraged. If shutters are installed, they should be sized and mounted as if operable.

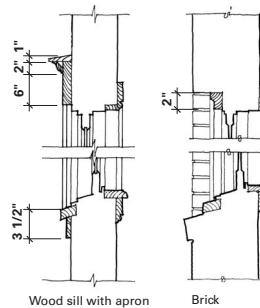
## Doors

Doors typically have six panels, while surrounds frequently incorporate sidelights and transoms.

## Trim

Windows and doors typically have a 6-inch-wide flat trim with or without a cap molding, or a 6-inch backband trim. Brick buildings feature 2-inch brickmold.

## DETAIL WINDOW SECTIONS

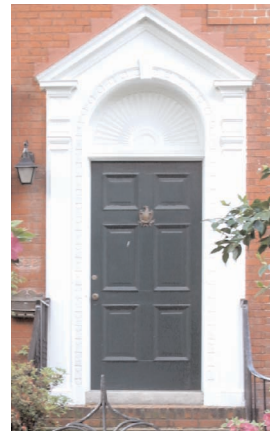
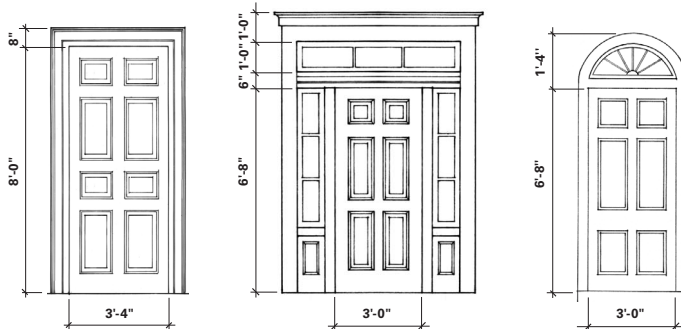


Wood sill with apron

Brick



## DOORS



# Porches

## Porch Roofs & Eaves

Porches can be one or two stories tall with either flat, shed, or shallow hipped-roofs. Shed or hip porches typically have a 3 in 12 to 4 in 12 pitch.

## Columns & Railings

Columns include 10- and 12-inch round Doric and Ionic columns, pedestal-mounted 8-inch round, paired three-quarter-height paired Doric columns, and 8- to 10-inch full-height tapered box columns. Single-story porches have 9- to 10-foot-tall columns, and columns on two-story porches are 9- to 10-foot-tall on the ground floor and 8- to 9-foot-tall on the second. For double porches with Classical or tapered columns, 12-inch-

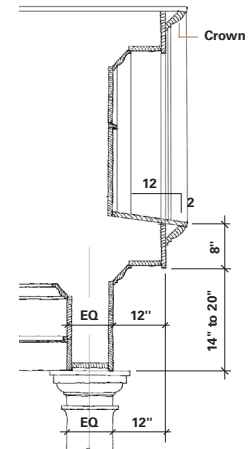
wide columns are used on the ground floor, while 10-inch columns are used above. Porch column bays should be more narrow than wide. Balusters should be turned or square, and spaced no more than 4 inches on center.

## Porch Location & Massing

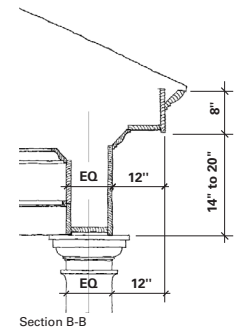
Full front porches are encouraged on Norfolk Colonial Revival houses. Smaller porches should be centered in the massing bay in which they occur. Minimum porch depth is 8 feet. For wood deck porches, the gaps between brick piers are infilled with lattice panels. Solid porches should be faced in brick, or stucco if appropriate.



TYPICAL PORCH EAVE SECTIONS



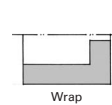
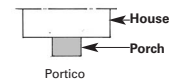
Section A-A



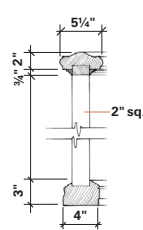
Section B-B



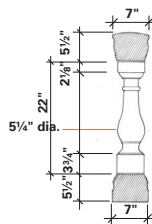
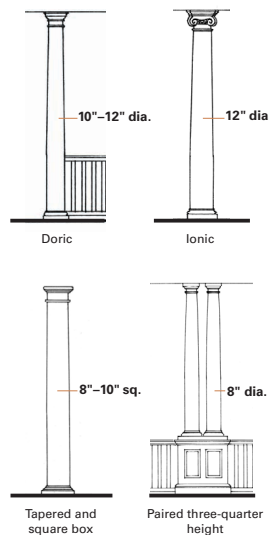
TYPICAL PORCH LOCATIONS



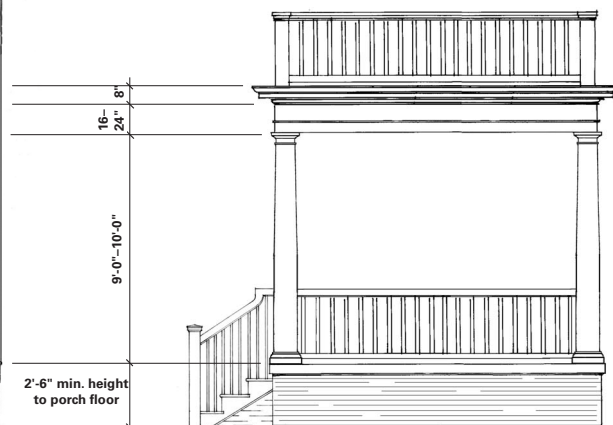
RAIL DETAILS



COLUMN TYPES



Partial porch elevation



Portico with side steps



# Materials & Applications



## Roofing

- Slate (including manufactured slate products), laminated asphalt or composition shingles with a slate pattern, or flat clay tile

## Soffits

- Smooth-finish composition board, tongue-and-groove wood boards, or fiber-cement panels

## Gutters & Downspouts

- Half-round or ogee profile gutters with round or rectangular downspouts in copper, painted or prefinished metal



## Windows

- Painted wood or solid cellular PVC, or clad wood or vinyl with brick veneer only; true divided light or simulated divided light (SDL) sash with traditional exterior muntin profile ( $\frac{7}{8}$  inch wide)

## Doors

- Wood, fiberglass or steel with traditional stile-and-rail proportions and raised panel profiles, painted or stained

## Shutters

- Wood or composite, sized to match window sash and mounted with hardware to appear operable



## Cladding

- Smooth-finish wood or fiber-cement lap siding, 6- to 8-inch exposure, or random-width cut shingles
- Sand-molded or smooth-finish brick in Common, English or Flemish bond patterns
- Light sand-finish stucco

## Trim

- Wood, composite, cellular PVC or polyurethane millwork; stucco, stone or cast stone

## Foundations & Chimneys

- Brick, stucco or stone veneer



## Columns

- Architecturally correct Classical proportions and details in wood, fiberglass, or composite material

## Railings

- Milled wood top and bottom rails with square or turned balusters
- Wrought iron or solid bar stock square metal picket

## Porch Ceilings

- Plaster, tongue-and-groove wood or composite boards, or beaded-profile plywood



## Front Yard Fences

- Wood picket, or wood, wrought iron or solid bar stock metal picket with brick or stucco finish masonry piers

## Lighting

- Porch pendant or wall-mounted carriage lantern



## Gallery of Examples

